



For immediate release  
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### **Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid In Additional TWA Layoffs**

KANSAS CITY -- The state Rapid Response team has been activated again to assist additional workers that were displaced by layoffs on Dec. 31, 2001 at the Trans World Airlines (TWA) Engine Overhaul Base in Kansas City.

These recent layoffs are expected to be the last ones as a result of the current downturn in airline business, which has resulted in layoffs of approximately 294 employees. TWA officials say that the number of displaced employees is lower than originally anticipated. About 75 of the recently displaced workers are expected to attend a meeting with the Rapid Response team at 1 p.m. on Jan. 3.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security, the Full Employment Council and the University of Missouri Project Refocus. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

"Unfortunately, we continue to feel the effects of the terrorist attacks," said Joseph L. Driskill, Department of Economic Development director. "We remain committed to working with local agencies in providing assistance to these dislocated workers in finding new jobs and, in some cases, acquiring any needed training toward a new skill. The Rapid Response team is imminently qualified and determined in their efforts."

The Rapid Response Team and Kansas City-area Missouri Career Centers will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Full Employment Council are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. The meeting with workers scheduled for Jan. 3 will explain how these services can help them find a new job. It will be held at International Association Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 1650 at 3050 Vivion Road in Riverside.

The TWA displaced employees largely represent the mechanical field. Employers interested in hiring these workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can **call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or Steve Dempsey with the Full Employment Council at 816-471-2330.**